

is a monopoly of mankind's. We can, of course, only judge of the mental states of the lower animals by observing their behaviour. Dogs may show some slight traces of self-conscious bashfulness. Other animals do not appear to experience this feeling.

We are surrounded with things that are inexplicable : self-consciousness is the nearest to us of them all. It appears, from the phenomena of hypnotism, to be a delicate outgrowth of consciousness, which may, so to speak, be amputated without depriving our conscious faculties of their acute-ness, although their purposeful unity is withered by the severance. The most striking, and probably the essential, feature of the hypnotic condition is the complete loss of self-consciousness—the indifference of the hypnotized person to the figure which he may present to bystanders, and his readiness to behave in a manner which would ordinarily cost him agonies of shame. There is no failing of awareness to externals : his consciousness of impressions, and of the movements of his own limbs, may indeed be abnormally effective, enabling him to overcome difficulties which would ordinarily baffle him. At the same time he becomes exceedingly amenable to suggestions : the imitative impulse completely dominates him. He acts, it is true, only upon the suggestions of the hypnotist, and this seems to

indicate that the imitative impulse is swayed by an influence subtly exercised by the hypnotist's mind. These conditions are not unparalleled in ordinary life : the less self-conscious a man is— the less he is impressed with a sense of his own individuality— the more prone he will be to mould his behaviour upon that of others; and we are